



# **The Grand Calumet River Area of Concern Program: A Plain English Guide**

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Indiana Department of Environmental Management

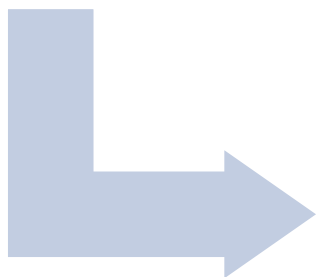
October 26, 2017



# The Area of Concern Program

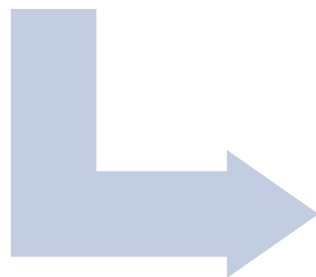
Great Lakes  
Water Quality  
Agreement

- Between United States and Canada
- 1972, 1978, 1983, 1987, and 2012 versions



General  
and Specific  
Objectives

- Water quality and environmental goals for the Great Lakes



Areas of  
Concern  
(AOCs)

- Severely impaired areas not meeting the General (or Specific) Objectives due to human causes



# Grand Calumet River AOC





# How Do We Know an AOC is Impaired?

- The United States and Canada identified various benefits of the Great Lakes, including:
  - People can freely eat the fish
  - Native fish and wildlife populations are sustainable.
  - People can swim in and drink the water.
- AOCs suffer from human-caused impairments of these (and other) beneficial uses (also known as beneficial use impairments, or BUIs).





# Describing the Problem

***Environmental  
Damage in a  
Great Lake  
Watershed***

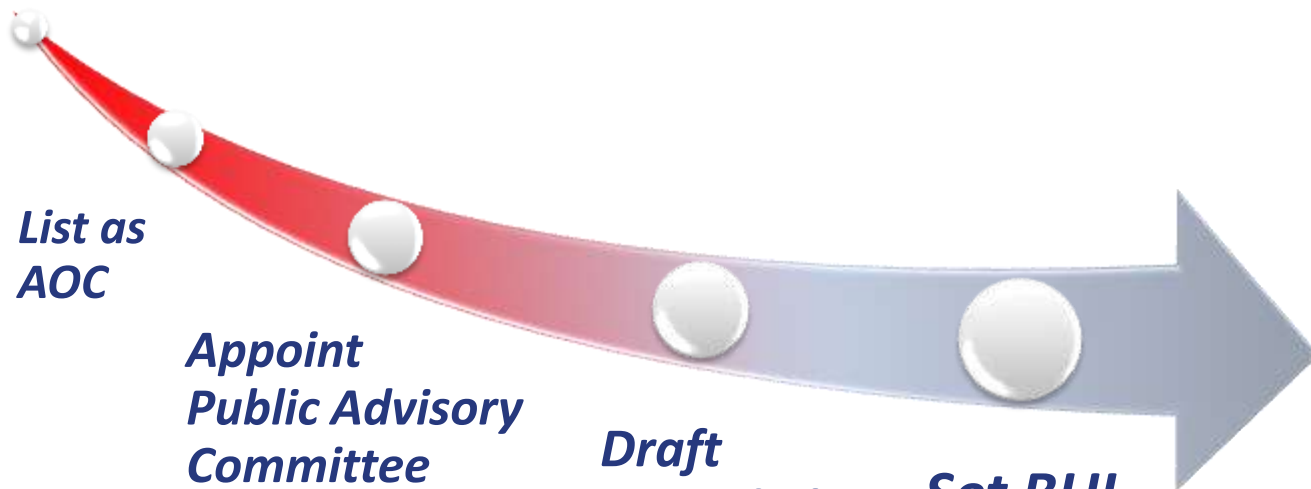
***List as  
AOC***

***Appoint  
Public Advisory  
Committee***

*(such as Citizens  
Advisory for the  
Remediation of  
the Environment,  
or CARE)*

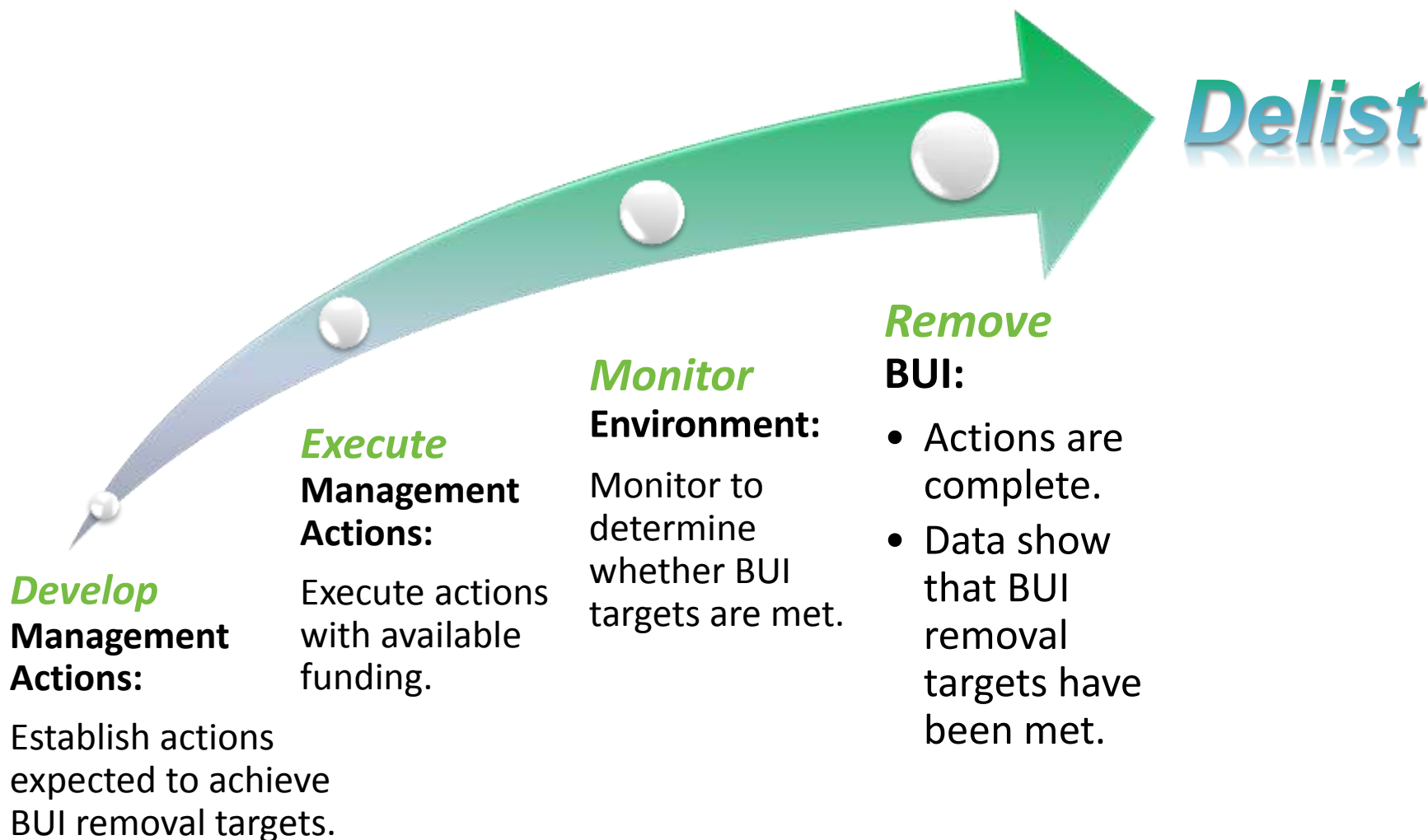
***Draft  
Remedial  
Action Plan  
(RAP)***

***Set BUI  
Removal  
Targets***





# Addressing the Problem





# How Are Critical Projects Funded?

## Federal Funds

IDEM & CARE propose management action



Discussion with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Submission of grant proposal



U.S. EPA approves or denies funding request

## Nonfederal Funds

IDEM/EPA secures matching nonfederal funds\* if needed



\* Sources of nonfederal matching funds may include local industries, municipalities, and the State of Indiana.





# Great Lakes Legacy Act vs. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

## Great Lakes Legacy Act

- Passed in 2002
- U.S. EPA invested \$338 million to accelerate cleanup of contaminated sediments in Great Lakes
- Requires nonfederal match
  - \$227 million leveraged from nonfederal sponsors

## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- Passed in 2008
- Nearly \$3 billion to target biggest threats to Great Lakes ecosystem and for restoration and protection work
- Projects may be 100% funded



# The 14 Beneficial Use Impairments

1. Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
2. Tainting of fish and wildlife flavor
3. Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
4. Fish tumors or other deformities
5. Bird or animal deformities or reproduction problems
6. Degradation of benthos
7. Restriction on dredging activities





# The 14 Beneficial Use Impairments

8. Eutrophication or undesirable algae
9. Restrictions on drinking water consumption, or taste and odor problems
10. Beach closings
11. Degradation of aesthetics
12. Added costs to agriculture and industry
13. Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations
14. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat






# Change is Happening





# Beneficial Use Impairments Removed

 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

SEP 30 2011

Mr. Thomas Easterly  
Commissioner  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Dear Mr. Easterly:


Thank you for your September 29, 2011 request to remove the "Added Costs to Industry and Agriculture" Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the Grand Calumet River Area of Concern (AOC), Lake County, Indiana. We very much share your desire to restore the health of all of the Great Lakes AOCs and to formally delist them.

Based upon a review of your submittal and the supporting data, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hereby approves your BUI removal request. Further, we will notify the International Joint Commission of this significant positive change in the environmental health of the Grand Calumet River AOC.

We congratulate all of the parties involved in this federal, state, and local partnership. Working together, they have achieved this important environmental improvement which will benefit the Great Lakes, the State of Indiana, and, especially, the people who work and live near the Grand Calumet River AOC. We look forward to continuing this important and productive relationship with your agency and local coordinating committees as we work together to fully restore the Grand Calumet River AOC.

If you have further questions, please contact me at (312) 353-4891 or your staff may contact John Perrecone, in EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office, at (312) 353-1149.

Sincerely,

  
Chris Korleski, Director  
Great Lakes National Program Office

BUI #12 Removal Letter

 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR -5 2012

Mr. Thomas Easterly  
Commissioner  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Dear Mr. Easterly:

Thank you for your February 13, 2012 request to remove the "Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption--Taste and Odor Problems" Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the Grand Calumet River Area of Concern (AOC), Lake County, Indiana.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves your removal request based upon a review of your submittal and the supporting data. We share your desire to restore all of the Great Lakes AOCs and to formally delist them. EPA will notify the International Joint Commission of this significant positive change in the environmental health of the Grand Calumet River AOC.

We congratulate all of the parties involved in this federal/state/local partnership. They have been instrumental in achieving this important environmental improvement, which will benefit people who work and live near the Grand Calumet River AOC, the State of Indiana, and the Great Lakes basin. We look forward to the continuation of this important and productive relationship with your agency and local coordinating committees as we work together to fully restore all of the BUIs at the Grand Calumet AOC.

If you have further questions, please contact me at (312) 353-4891 or your staff may contact John Perrecone, Great Lakes National Program Office, at (312) 353-1149.

Sincerely,

  
Chris Korleski, Director  
Great Lakes National Program Office

BUI #9 Removal Letter





# Questions?

**Michael Spinar**

Remedial Action Plan Program Coordinator  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Program Support

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